

Career and Technical Education

As you've probably figured out by now, determining which career is best for you isn't that simple. However, once you've narrowed down your choices, you must then determine the best way to get the education and experience needed to successfully pursue your career goals.

Career and Technical Education might be just what you need. It includes a wide variety of programs that are designed to equip you with work and life skills. As a career and technical education student, you can explore career options, gain insight into a number of fields, prepare for a wide range of occupations, retrain for new jobs, and learn how to improve home and family life.



Career and technical education programs offer concentrated training that prepares you for such diverse careers as agriculture, electronics and computers, retailing, finance, insurance, construction, manufacturing, and small business management. Students who successfully complete these programs are able to find jobs and keep them, advance in careers, and contribute as citizens to their community.

Today's workplace is changing like never before. Employers demand that workers have solid skills as well as the ability to adapt to new technology. You're in a position where you'll experience employment challenges your parents never imagined. Advances in information

Could it be for you?

processing, communications, biotechnology, electronics, and more have changed and will continue to change working environments and lifestyles.

Ask yourself this question: Do you have the necessary job skills to keep pace with today's rapidly changing technology? If your answer is no, consider the advantages of career and technical education.

Most career and technical education programs combine classroom instruction, laboratory work, on-the-job cooperative work experiences, and participation in student organizations. This combination makes this type of education an exciting prospect as you consider ways to achieve your career goals.

Remember, career and technical education doesn't stop once you get your high school diploma. Many students continue their education beyond high school. A large number of career and technical education graduates enroll in college or choose other post secondary training.

High schools as well as vocational-technical centers offer a wide variety of programs that can be categorized as follows:

- Agriscience, including horticulture, production agriculture, environmental science, food science technology, agricultural mechanics, agri-business, biotechnology and landscaping.
- Business Education, including accounting, office occupations and business management programs.

- Health Occupations, such as practical nursing, nursing assistant, dental assistant, medical assistant, and radiologic technician.



- Family and Consumer Sciences,

Should I Be a Career and Technical Education Student?

1. Are you seriously thinking about trying to find a job as soon as you leave high school?
2. Do you prefer learning through activities and acquiring general skills that will help you no matter what occupations you work in?
3. Would you be able to learn reading and math skills more easily if you could see how people use those skills in their work?
4. Are you interested in project-based learning rather than book based learning?
5. Is it important that you get some kind of work experience so that you know how to apply what you are learning in school?
6. Are you interested in participating in a student organization that develops leadership skills?
7. Do you need skills that will help you find a part-time job while you continue your education after finishing high school?

If you answered yes to most of these questions, ask your guidance counselor for more information about the career and technical education programs available to you. 2002-2003 Delaware Career Compass, <http://www.oelmi.net/pub/CARCOMP2003.pdf>

includes food and nutrition services, early education services, community leadership, services to families, and consumer services.

- Marketing Education, including general merchandising, apparel and accessories, real estate, financial services, business and personal services marketing.
- Technical Education furnishes specific preparation for a variety of jobs in such fields as, but not limited to,



architectural design, computer-aided drafting and design, communications, information technology, electronics and control systems, bio-related technology, mechanical and computer control, material processing, manufacturing and transportation. Promoted by systematic technological problem-solving abilities, critical thinking and listening, responsible decision-making, communication and teamwork, creating, inventing and innovating, engineering and building, as well as ap-

appropriate risk taking.

- Trade and Industrial Education, which includes a wide range of trades such as auto mechanics, culinary arts, electrical trades, welding and cosmetology.

If you're interested in learning more about vocational education programs, see your school counselor today.

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The old adage goes: If you choose a career involving something you love, then you will be happy, healthy and wise. (You stand a pretty good chance of making money too.)

When considering your career options, you should always think about:

- What makes you happy?
- What are your goals?
- What are your dreams?